

Dear Dr. Lederberg,

First of all I wish to thank you very heartily indeed for your kind letters, which were of a very great interest to me. I was very proud, that my doubts about the Crick's code had some foundations, and especially, that the problem of working out a quadruplet code, which is posed in the abstract of Delbrück's paper, is just the problem I began to play with about a year and a half ago. I did not do any real work on it because I doubt, that it is possible to solve the code problem by pure mathematics, without taking in account the wealth of stereochemical and biochemical data and especially without due consideration ~~of~~ the role, played by RNA.

Please excuse me that I write you with such an enormous delay, but after my return to Moscow (it was only on the 25 of December) I was ill for more than 1½ months - first I broke my cheek-bone when Skiing, and then I had twice a very bad kind of "flu.

Now as to the questions of space navigation and contamination, ~~the~~ the proper body to deal with them as far as I am aware, is the Special Committee for Space Research, which includes representatives of our country.

Its president is Van-Dehulst, Palace Noordeinde, The Haag, Nederland.

People with whom I spoke here about these questions were interested to know how high above the surface of a planet specimens of living organisms or of organic matter could be collected, by special devices, in amounts, sufficient to be detected by special analysis. Perhaps these questions should be investigated experimentally in flights high above the surface of the earth.

Thank you again for your letters. Please remember me to your wife.

With most cordial greetings

Yours sincerely

J. Tamm
(TAMM)

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